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Theodosia Hester to Sarah Bracher, 5 July 1877

Blackwood Park

Blackwood

July 5/77

My dear Sister

I suppose you have heard from dear Henry that our poor dear sister Letitia has been laid up in Perth for the last 6 or 7 weeks he has been with her The poor thing came up from the Bay quite an invalid so much so that she did not leave her bed after she arrived And now the sad sad news has come to me from Mrs Steere that it pleased the Lord to take our dear sister She died on the *Sunday at 4 o'clock* on the *first of this month* dear Henry left her on the Friday with Alice who he took home with him, after being in town about 5 weeks it was great expense to him as our poor sister had spent all she had to pay their passage up Mrs Steere was with her to the last, she has been a dear kind friend to her. Dear Henry wrote to me on the 27th of last month to say 'our dear sister is sinking fast, all that she can take is a spoonful of Milk with the juice of an orange in it', so you see dear sister we have been expecting to hear of her death for some time. The Doctor's say her illness has been coming on for the last two years. She died from *cancer* of the *womb*, a complaint that is incurable. She was laid up at Fremantle at one of the Hotels, for about a fortnight, and the Doctor then told her that he was afraid that she would be an invalid for the rest of her days and he advised her to go into the Hospital in Perth; which she was persuaded to do by Mrs Steere and other friends, because she would be so well nursed and attended to. The charge to those who can pay is 10/6 per week that is what our dear sister paid. Mrs Steere wrote me 'Do not grieve dear friend for your poor sister she is quite well prepared to meet her God'

*July 6<sup>th</sup>* I felt so very ill last night my head and heart acting fit to burst in consequence of which I had to put my writing off until this morning I often feel sorry to think that our dear sister left the Blackwood she might be alive now if she had remained here; but it is not right to wish her back. Our dear brother Henry wrote me that our dear departed sister talked about her funeral as a person of the

world would do about a pleasure they had to look forward to. I will enclose part of a note from Edwards sister you will see what she says about Letitia. You will be glad to hear that dear Frances is about to be married to a nephew of Mrs Tom Turner Mr Arthur Heppingstone a nice young man; he is on a large cattle station of Mr W Bunbury's and is very well to do. Of course it is not such a match as dear Amy made but that we cannot expect for all our girls. I forgot if I told you that Amy and George Warburton expect if all goes well to pay you all a visit after the shearing is over they intend paying all the colonies a visit dear George has friends everywhere Dear Amy seems delighted at the idea of seeing you and her cousins. With love from all at home to dear Fanny & George not forgetting your and your dear husband Flora is with dear Amy Louisa has just returned from a long visit to her sister Amy has her third child and a fine beautiful boy he is. May the Lord bless and you all and always

Believe me ever to remain  
fondly & affectly  
Your sister  
Theodosia